



NEWS RELEASE

Department of Human Services
400 Deaderick Street
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THE DEPARTMENT OF HUMAN SERVICES' DIVISION OF REHABILITATION SERVICES NAMES NEW EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR FOR THE TENNESSEE COUNCIL FOR THE DEAF AND HARD OF HEARING

NASHVILLE – Thom Roberts has been appointed as the new Executive Director of the

Tennessee Council for the Deaf and Hard of Hearing (TCDHH), which is part of the Tennessee Department of Human Services' Division of Rehabilitation Services. Roberts has twenty years of experience working with people who are deaf, hard of hearing, and deaf-blind.

A native of New Jersey, Roberts has a bachelor's degree from Liberty University and has also studied at the University of Alabama, where he completed the Educational Interpreter Training Program. Roberts has national certification from the Registry of Interpreters for the Deaf. Prior to joining the TCDHH, he was the Director of the Communication Center for the Deaf and Hard of Hearing in Johnson City.

"Having someone of Thom's talent and experience is great for the Council and its work. He'll be a friend and powerful advocate for Tennesseans who are deaf, hard of hearing, or deaf-blind," said Carl Brown, Assistant Commissioner for Rehabilitation Services.

Roberts' duties are to be responsible for gathering and maintaining information on deaf services, and to encourage the development and coordination of programs to serve people who are deaf, hard of hearing, and deaf-blind.

"Communication is the barrier all of us face while trying to express our needs," says Roberts. "The Council is here to facilitate open dialogue between consumers and communities, and to foster equal access for the population we serve."

Roberts' office is located in the Citizens Plaza State Office Building, 11th Floor, 400 Deaderick Street, Nashville, TN 37248 (telephone/TTY, 615-313-4918; email, Thom.Roberts@state.tn.us).

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